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# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

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Prepared by

**U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Collaborating with

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION and NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES**

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed on the last page of this report.

AS OF  
**MAR. 1, 1973**

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 970, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

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### DETAILED WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK BY MAJOR AREAS:

Truckee, Carson, and Walker Watersheds .....	Area 1
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Humboldt and Owyhee Watersheds .....	Area 3
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ALL AVERAGES ARE FOR 1953-67 PERIOD



AREA LOCATIONS

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA

AS OF MARCH 1, 1973, NEVADA'S WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK IS FOR AVERAGE TO ABOVE AVERAGE WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE COMING IRRIGATION SEASON. THE SNOWPACK ON ALL PRINCIPAL WATERSHEDS IS NORMAL TO ABOVE NORMAL. THE TREND IS GENERALLY FROM NORMAL CONDITIONS IN NORTHEASTERN NEVADA, IMPROVING TO ABOVE NORMAL IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN NEVADA TO A VERY HEAVY SNOWPACK ON MT. CHARLESTON IN SOUTHERN NEVADA. THE SNOWPACK ON THE EAST SLOPE OF THE SIERRA IS ABOVE 120 PERCENT OF AVERAGE.

RESERVOIR STORAGE REMAINS EXCELLENT, WITH ALL MAJOR RESERVOIRS CONTAINING 143 PERCENT OF AVERAGE STORAGE IN AGGREGATE.

Snow cover ranges from 96 percent of average on the Upper Owyhee drainage to 234 percent of normal on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas. The Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basin currently have a snowpack of 123 and 121 percent, respectively. The Carson River drainage is similar, with 121 percent. Snow conditions improved in the Walker River drainage during February, and the current snowpack is 128 percent of average.

The Owyhee and Humboldt River Basins have a normal to 128 percent of normal snowpack, respectively. Salmon Falls drainage in northeastern Nevada has a 104 percent snow cover.

Northwestern Nevada and the Surprise Valley area of California has a 107 percent of average snowpack.

Eastern and central Nevada have excellent snow cover this year. Watersheds in the Ely area have a 114 percent of average snowpack, and the headwaters of the Reese River in central Nevada has a 214 percent of normal snowpack. This year's snow cover in southern Nevada is one of the heaviest in years.

Mt. Charleston's heavy snowpack is producing snowloads in excess of 100 pounds per square foot at 8,000 feet and above.

Reservoir storage is 143 percent of average in Nevada's principal irrigation reservoirs. There is over 700,000 acre-feet of stored water in the Truckee River system. This is about 125 percent of average. Lahontan Reservoir contains 245,000 acre-feet which is 128 percent of normal. Combined storage in Topaz and Bridgeport is 58,000 acre-feet which is 12,000 acre-feet below normal. Rye Patch Reservoir on the Humboldt contains 158,000 acre-feet which is 213 percent of average.

Streamflow forecasts range from average on both the Owyhee River and Salmon Falls Creek to 184 percent of average on the Virgin River near Virgin, Utah.

Streamflow forecasts along the eastern slope of the Sierra range from 105 percent on the West Walker River to 124 percent on Lake Tahoe inflow. The Humboldt drainage is generally expected to flow 128 to 140 percent of average. The combined above average streamflow predictions and excellent reservoir storage will produce a good water supply for irrigation interests throughout Nevada this year.

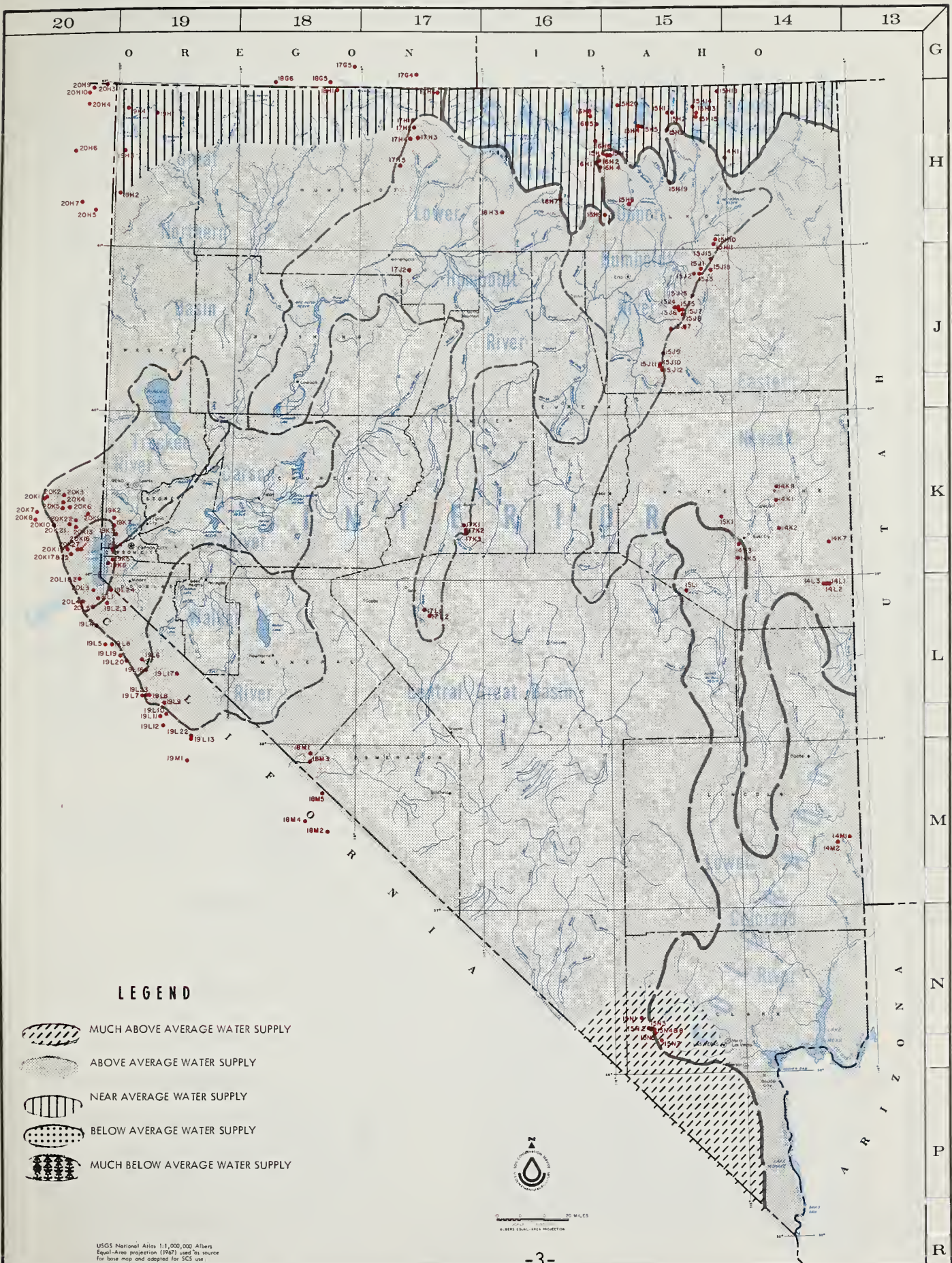
#### Special Note:

Recent analysis on soil moisture data, coupled with a more restrictive budget, have led us to decrease our network of soil moisture stations. We will continue to measure and report the data on the following stations: Independence Camp, Marlette Lake, Sonora Pass, Big Bend, Rodeo Flat, Taylor Canyon, and Green Mountain. All others will be discontinued. If you need these discontinued data, please make your needs known to Donald W. McAndrew, Snow Survey Supervisor, Soil Conservation Service, P.O. Box 4850, Reno, NV 89505





# PROSPECTIVE WATER SUPPLY FOR NEVADA





# INDEX TO NEVADA SNOW COURSES (By Basins)

Refer to the map on the preceeding page for Snow Course locations.

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.	NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
<b>SNAKE RIVER BASIN</b>						<b>LAKE TAHOE</b>					
<b>SNAKE RIVER</b>						20L5	Echo Summit (Cal.)	6	11N	18E	7450
15H1MA	Bear Creek	31	46N	58E	7800	19L2	Free1 Bench (Cal.)	36	12N	18E	7300
15H2	Fox Creek	33	46N	58E	6800	19K6	Glenbrook #2	13	14N	18E	6900
15H13A	Goat Creek	31	46N	60E	8800	19L3MSZ	Hagans Meadow (Cal.)	36	12N	18E	8000
15H15A	Hummingbird Springs	6	45N	60E	8945	20L4	Lake Lucille (Cal.)	28	12N	17E	8200
14H1	Jakes Creek	6	42N	62E	7000	19L4MSTZ	Marlette Lake	18	15N	19E	8000
15H20a	Merritt Mountain	10	46N	54E	7000	20L3	Richardson #2 (Cal.)	6	12N	18E	6500
15H14A	Pole Creek Ranger Station	13	46N	59E	8330	20L1	Rubicon #1 (Cal.)	6	13N	17E	8100
15H18a	Red Point	15	47N	61E	7940	20L2	Rubicon #2 (Cal.)	6	13N	17E	7500
15H3A	76 Creek	6	44N	58E	7100	20K16	Tahoe City (Cal.)	6	15N	17E	6250
15H19a	5tag Mountain	29	41N	58E	7800	19L1	Upper Truckee (Cal.)	21	12N	18E	6400
<b>OWYHEE RIVER</b>						20K17M	Ward Creek (Cal.)	21	15N	16E	7000
15H4MP	Big Bend	30	45N	56E	6700	20K25STZ	Ward Creek #2 (Cal.)	21	15N	16E	6750
16H6a	Columbia Basin	31	44N	53E	6650	20K27	Tahoe City Cross (Cal.)	1	15N	16E	6750
16H8a	Fawn Creek	2	45N	52E	7000	<b>TRUCKEE RIVER</b>					
15H5	Gold Creek	32	45N	56E	6600	20K14	Boca #2 (Cal.)	28	18N	17E	5900
16H1M	Jack Creek, Lower	16	42N	53E	6800	20K22	Brockway Summit (Cal.)	3	17N	16E	7100
16H2A	Jack Creek, Upper	9	42N	53E	7250	20K21	Donner Park #2 (Cal.)	18	17N	16E	6000
16H4	Jacks Peak	28	42N	53E	8420	20K10	Donner Summit (Cal.)	25	17N	14E	6900
16H5	Laurel Draw	20	45N	53E	6700	20K7*	Fordyce Lake (Cal.)	34	18N	13E	6500
17G4a	Louse Canyon (Oreg.)	27	40S	44E	6440	20K8*	Furnace Flat (Cal.)	10	17N	13E	6700
15H9MP	Taylor Canyon	35	39N	53E	6200	19L245	Heavenly Valley (Cal.)	1	12N	18E	8850
<b>INTERIOR</b>						20K4MSTPZ	Independence Camp (Cal.)	34	19N	15E	7000
<b>UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER</b>						20K3	Independence Creek (Cal.)	14	19N	15E	6500
15J17a	American Beauty	32	31N	58E	7800	20K5	Independence Lake (Cal.)	9	18N	15E	8450
15J12A	Corral Canyon	27	28N	57E	8500	19K3	Little Valley	17	16N	19E	6300
15J1MP	Dorsey Basin	28	35N	60E	8100	19K2	Mt. Rose	7	17N	19E	9000
15J3	Dry Creek	5	34N	60E	6500	19K7	Mt. Rose Ski Area	30	17N	19E	9000
15H7	Fry Canyon	31	43N	54E	6700	20K6	Sage Hen Creek (Cal.)	7	18N	16E	6500
15J9MP	Green Mountain	23	29N	57E	8000	20K19	Squaw Valley #2 (Cal.)	6	15N	16E	7500
15J10	Harrison Pass #1	9	28N	57E	6600	20K13M	Truckee #2 (Cal.)	22	17N	16E	6400
15J11	Harrison Pass #2	16	28N	57E	7400	20K2*	Webber Lake (Cal.)	29	19N	14E	7000
15J4	Lamoille #1	15	32N	58E	7100	20K1*	Webber Peak (Cal.)	30	19N	14E	8000
15J5	Lamoille #2	14	32N	58E	7200	<b>CARSON RIVER</b>					
15J6M	Lamoille #3	24	32N	58E	7700	19L5	Blue Lakes (Cal.)	30	9N	19E	8000
15J7	Lamoille #4	19	32N	59E	8000	19L4	Carson Pass, Upper (Cal.)	22	10N	18E	8600
15J8P	Lamoille #5	31	32N	59E	8700	19K5	Clear Creek	6	14N	19E	7300
15J18a	Pole Canyon	31	35N	61E	9140	19L19a	Ebbetts Pass (Cal.)	17	8N	20E	8700
15J16a	Robinson Lake	23	33N	59E	9200	19L16a	Fish Valley, Upper (Cal.)	1	7N	22E	8050
15H6MP	Roded Flat	36	43N	53E	6800	19L06a	Poison Flat (Cal.)	25	8N	21E	7900
15J2	Ryan Ranch	1	34N	59E	5800	19L18AS	Wet Meadows Lake (Cal.)	26	9N	19E	8100
15H8	Tremewan Ranch	9	39N	55E	5700	19L20a	Wolf Creek (Cal.)	35	8N	20E	8000
15H10P	Trout Creek, Lower	28	37N	61E	6900	<b>WALKER RIVER</b>					
15H11A	Trout Creek, Upper	4	36N	61E	8500	19L11	Buckeye Forks (Cal.)	20	4N	23E	8500
<b>LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER</b>						19L10	Buckeye Roughs (Cal.)	15	4N	23E	7900
17K1	Big Creek Camp Ground	10	17N	43E	6600	19L12A	Center Mountain (Cal.)	4	3N	23E	9400
17K2	Big Creek Mine	23	17N	43E	7600	19L8	Leavitt Meadows (Cal.)	4	5N	22E	7200
17K3	Big Creek, Upper	26	17N	43E	7800	19L17a	Loddell Lake (Cal.)	20	7N	24E	9200
17H2	Buckskin, Lower	25	45N	39E	6700	19L7M	Sonora Pass (Cal.)	1	5N	21E	8800
17H1	Buckskin, Upper	11	45N	39E	8200	19L235TPZ	Sonora Pass Bridge	6	5N	22E	8800
17L1	Corral, Lower	12	11N	40E	7500*	19M1*	Tioga Pass (Cal.)	30	1N	25E	9900
17L2	Corral, Upper	20	11N	41E	8000	19L13	Virginia Lakes (Cal.)	5	2N	25E	9500
17J2	Golconda #2	22	35N	39E	6000	19L22MSZ	Virginia Lakes Ridge	32	3N	25E	9200
17H4	Granite Peak	22	44N	39E	7800	19L9	Willow Flat (Cal.)	21	5N	23E	8250
17H5	Lamance Creek	13	42N	38E	6000	<b>COLORADO</b>					
17H3	Martin Creek	18	44N	40E	6700	<b>LOWER COLORADO RIVER</b>					
16H3AP	Midas	18	39N	46E	7200	15N5	Kyle Canyon	27	19S	56E	8200
16H7	Toe Jam a	29	40N	50E	7700	15N4	Lee Canyon #1	10	19S	56E	8400
<b>EASTERN NEVADA</b>						15N3	Lee Canyon #2	9	19S	56E	9200
14L1	Baker #1	29	13N	69E	7950	15N8	Lee Canyon #3	10	19S	56E	8500
14L2	Baker #2	30	13N	69E	8950	14M1	Mathew Canyon	10	6S	70E	6000
14L3	Baker #3	25	13N	68E	9250	14M2	Pine Canyon	23	6S	69E	6200
14K2	Berry Creek	26	17N	65E	9100	15N7	Rainbow Canyon #2	6	20S	57E	8100
14K1	Bird Creek	34	19N	65E	7500	15L1	White River #1	31	13N	59E	7400
15J15	Hole-In-Mountain	6	35N	61E	7900	<b>LEGEND</b>					
14K8	Kalamazoo Creek	34	20N	65E	7400	<b>NUMBERING SYSTEM (EXAMPLE)</b>					
14K3	Murray Summit	25	16N	62E	7250	19K4	Snow Course Only				
15K1	Robinson Summit	34	18N	61E	7600	19K4S	Snow Course and Snow Pillow				
14K7	Silver Creek #2	30	16N	69E	8000	19K4M	Snow Course and Soil Moisture				
14K5	Ward Mountain #2	25	15N	62E	8900	19K4A	Snow Course and Aerial Marker				
<b>CENTRAL GREAT BASIN</b>						19K4P	Snow Course and Storage Precipitation Gage				
18M2	Campito Mountain (Cal.)	19	5S	35E	10200	19K4MA	Snow Course, Soil Moisture and Aerial Marker				
18M5a	Chiatovich Flat	32	2S	34E	10500	19K4MP	Snow Course, Soil Moisture and Precipitation Gage				
15N2	Clark Canyon	8	19S	56E	9000	19K4STZ	Snow Course, Snow Pillow and Temperature Radio Telemetered.				
18M1	Montgomery Pass	4	1N	33E	7100	<b>Lower case letters m, a, p, s, t, z, indicate no snow course, only a Soil Moisture Station, Aerial Marker, Storage Precipitation Gage, Snow Pillow, Temperature, or Radio Telemetered.</b>					
18M3a	Pinchot Creek	28	1N	33E	9300	<i>*Located on adjacent watershed</i>					
18M4	Piute Pass (Cal.)	33	4S	33E	11700						
15N1	Trough Springs	23	18S	55E	8500						
<b>NORTHERN GREAT BASIN</b>											
19H1	Bald Mountain	17	45N	21E	6720						
20H5	Barber Creek (Cal.)	23	39N	16E	6500						
20H6	Cedar Pass (Cal.)	12	43N	14E	7100						
18G6a	Denio Creek (Oreg.)	14	41S	34E	6000						
18H1	Disaster Peak	8	47N	34E	6500						
20H3a	Dismal Swamp (Cal.)	31	48N	17E	7000						
20H7	Eagle Peak (Cal.)	35	40N	15E	7200						
19H3	49-Mountain	7	42N	19E	6000						
19H2	Hays Canyon	1	39N	18E	6400						
19H4a	Little Bally Mountain	8	45N	19E	6000						
20H9	Mt. Bidwell	6	47N	16E	7200						
20H10	North Star	13	47N	15E	6200						
17G5a	Oregon Canyon (Oreg.)	9	40S	40E	7240						
17H6a	Quinn Ridge	9	47N	41E	6300						
20H4	Reservation Creek (Cal.)	12	46N	13E	5900						
18G5a	Trout Creek (Oreg.)	10	41S	38E	7800						

# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1973

Forecasts are based on snow-water presently stored in the mountain watersheds and the assumption that precipitation will be near average throughout the forecast period. Peak flow forecasts indicate the most probable range for the maximum average 24-hour flow. All averages are for 1953-67 period.

FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average +
<u>TRUCKEE RIVER</u>				
Little Truckee River above Boca, CA <sup>1</sup>	April-July	91	112	81
Truckee River at Farad, CA <sup>1,2</sup>	April-July	289	112	258
Lake Tahoe Rise in Feet (From April 1, assuming gates closed) <sup>2</sup>	April-High	1.72	124	1.39
<u>CARSON RIVER</u>				
East Carson near Gardnerville, NV	April-July	197	112	175
West Carson at Woodfords, CA	April-July	59	116	51
Carson River near Carson City, NV	April-July	185	111	166
Carson River at Fort Churchill, NV	April-July	164	109	150
<u>WALKER RIVER</u>				
East Walker near Bridgeport, CA <sup>1</sup>	April-Aug.	64	107	60
West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	April-July	150	105	143
<u>COLORADO RIVER</u>				
Virgin River at Virgin, UT	April-June	70	184	38
<u>HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>				
Lamoille Creek near Lamoille, NV	April-July	27	108	25
South Fork Humboldt near Elko, NV	April-July	70	120	58
Marys River above Hot Springs, NV	April-July	30	107	28
North Fork Humboldt at Devils Gate, NV	April-July	29	112	26
Humboldt River at Palisade, NV	April-July	197	128	154
Humboldt River at Comus, NV	April-July	155	141	110
Martin Creek near Paradise, NV	April-July	16	114	14

+ 1953-1967 period



STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1973

FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average †
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>				
Owyhee River near Owyhee, NV <sup>1</sup>	April-July	60	100	60
Owyhee River near Gold Creek, NV <sup>1</sup>	April-July	19	119	16
Salmon Falls Creek near San Jacinto, NV	March-July	67	100	67
<u>SURPRISE VALLEY</u>				
Bidwell Creek near Fort Bidwell, CA	April-July	11.5	100	11.5
Mill Creek near Cedarville, CA	April-July	5.2	110	4.7
Deep Creek near Cedarville, CA	April-July	4.0	121	3.3
Eagle Creek near Eagleville, CA	April-July	5.0	116	4.3
<p>1 Corrected for storage</p> <p>2 Forecast issued by Truckee Basin Committee</p>				

**PEAK FLOWS** (MAXIMUM MEAN DAILY) (Av. flow for 24 hrs on day of greatest flow)

FORECAST POINT	PEAK FLOW (SECOND FEET)	
	Forecast Range	Average †
Little Truckee River - Inflow to Stampede Reservoir	920-1120	902
East Fork Carson River near Gardnerville, NV	1860-2060	1724
Carson River near Carson City, NV	2015-2235	1825
Carson River at Fort Churchill, NV	1700-1900	1678
West Walker River below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	1575-1750	1548

**FORECAST DATE of LOW FLOW VALUES**

FORECAST POINT	Low Flow Value Second/Ft.	Forecast Date Stream Will Recede to Low Flow Value	Average Date of Low Flow Value
East Carson River near Gardnerville, NV	200	7/22	7/23

**SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS**

STATION	Profile (Inches)		Soil Moisture (Inches)		
	Depth	Capacity	Date	This Year	Average †
<u>OWYHEE-HUMBOLDT BASIN</u>					
Bear Creek	72	16.9	3/2	10.4	10.6*
Big Bend	48	16.7	2/27	12.9	15.4*
Rodeo Flat	42	11.0	2/26	9.0	10.6*
Taylor Canyon	48	15.1	2/23	9.5	13.0*
<u>TAHOE-TRUCKEE BASIN</u>					
Hagans Meadow	36	3.7	3/1	2.7	3.3*
Independence Camp	34	6.1	2/27	3.1	5.6*
Marlette Lake	50	3.7	2/28	2.4	3.1*
Ward Creek	49	5.8	2/26	3.4	5.6*
<u>WALKER BASIN</u>					
Sonora Pass	48	8.3	2/27	6.0	-
Virginia Lakes Ridge	40	5.0	2/26	3.2	-

\* Adjusted average

† 1953-1967 period.



# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) as of March 1, 1973

Basin or Stream	RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
			This Year	Last Year	Average†
Owyhee	Wild Horse	72	59	59	15
Lower Humboldt	Rye Patch	179	158	179	74
Colorado	Mohave	1,810	1,748	1,666	1,697
Colorado	Mead	27,217	19,453	17,741	16,416
Tahoe	Tahoe	732	544	521	412
Truckee	Boca	41	29	31	6
Truckee	Stampede	220	126	121	**
Truckee	Prosser***	30	9	8	8*
Carson	Lahontan	314	245	267	191
West Walker	Topaz	59	33	42	39
East Walker	Bridgeport	42	25	41	31
* Adjusted average ** Storage began August 1, 1969 *** Flood control use allocation of 20,000 acre-feet between November 1 and April 10					

## TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

MONTH	This Year	Last Year	Average †
October 1	867	1,038	656
January 1	917	1,100	660
February 1	1,025	1,111	715
March 1	1,102	1,140	768
April 1		1,227	839
May 1		1,232	890
The above data developed from Wild Horse, Rye Patch, Tahoe, Boca, Lahontan, Topaz, and Bridgeport Reservoirs in 1,000 Acre-Feet. <b>TOTAL USABLE CAPACITY 1,439</b>			

† 1953-1967 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE NAME	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	
				Last Year	Average †
<u>LAKE TAHOE</u>					
Echo Summit (CA)	3/1	97	33.8	33.3	28.7
Freel Bench (CA)	3/1	40	14.0	13.6	10.6*
Glenbrook #2	2/25	38	11.2	10.8	10.4
Hagans Meadow	3/1	61	20.4	17.2	15.7*
Heavenly Valley	2/27	78	27.9	25.1	-
Lake Lucille (CA)	2/28	162	58.6	48.6	-
Marlette Lake	2/28	71	24.2	17.6	17.5
Richardsons #2 (CA)	2/25	56	18.3	15.9	14.9
Rubicon #1 (CA)	2/26	123	41.6	41.2	38.3
Rubicon #2 (CA)	2/26	81	28.2	26.4	23.6
Tahoe City (CA)	2/26	42	16.6	13.0	10.2
Tahoe City Alternate (CA)	2/27	43	15.5	14.5	-
Tahoe City Cross (CA)	2/28	72	22.3	19.0	-
Upper Truckee (CA)	2/28	36	11.8	12.4	8.9*
Ward Creek #2 (CA)	2/26	105	38.4	40.4	34.3
Ward Creek #3 (CA)	est.	95	33.7	38.8	-
<u>TRUCKEE RIVER</u>					
Boca #2 (CA)	2/27	25	8.4	6.8	6.1
Brockway Summit (CA)	2/25	68	21.6	13.0	-
Donner Park #2 (CA)	2/27	61	19.8	18.8	15.6*
Donner Summit (CA)	2/26	109	39.5	35.2	30.8
Fordyce Lake (CA)	3/2	117	47.5	36.2	30.2*
Furnace Flat (CA)	3/2	126	50.9	42.6	35.2*
Independence Camp (CA)	2/28	73	24.2	21.7	19.4
Independence Creek (CA)	2/28	54	17.6	11.8	12.8
Independence Lake (CA)	2/27	100	33.6	34.1	32.3
Little Valley	3/3	24	8.1	8.7	8.8*
Mount Rose Ski Area	2/26	102	46.0	32.2	-
Sage Hen Creek (CA)	2/28	68	21.7	18.8	16.1
Squaw Valley #2 (CA)	2/27	137	51.2	42.9	41.9*
Truckee #2 (CA)	2/24	54	17.0	13.3	14.1
<u>CARSON RIVER</u>					
Carson Pass, Upper (CA)	2/26	91	34.1	30.9	28.4
Clear Creek	3/1	47	12.4	13.0	11.1
Ebbetts Pass (CA)	est.	115	40.2	31.1a	-
Fish Valley, Upper (CA)	2/25	48	15.8	14.8a	11.7*
Poison Flat	2/25	50	16.5	11.9a	14.4*
Wet Meadows Lake (CA)	2/25	93	32.6a	22.2a	-
Wet Meadows #2 (CA)	2/28	109	37.8	-	-
Wolf Creek (CA)	2/25	115	41.4a	32.7a	-

† 1953-1967 period.



# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR		PAST RECORD		
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME					Last Year	Average †
<u>WALKER RIVER</u>						
Buckeye Forks (CA)	3/5	81	25.8	18.9	-	
Buckeye Roughs (CA)	3/5	73	23.1	14.4	-	
Center Mountain (CA)	3/6	117	39.1	28.9	-	
Lobdell Lake (CA)	2/25	56	17.9a	10.5a	-	
Sonora Pass (CA)	2/27	82	26.4	21.9	19.8	
Virginia Lakes (CA)	2/26	54	18.9	13.9	15.4	
Virginia Lakes Ridge (CA)	2/26	56	18.0	13.9	-	
Willow Flat (CA)	2/27	46	14.8	-	-	
<u>NORTHERN GREAT BASIN</u>						
Bald Mountain	2/28	14	3.9	5.4	3.1	
Barber Creek (CA)	2/28	40	12.2	17.0	9.4*	
Cedar Pass (CA)	2/28	39	11.7	24.4	12.2	
Denio Creek (OR)	3/2	3	0.8a	0.0	0.5*	
Disaster Peak	2/26	41	12.5	15.7	12.6	
Dismal Swamp (CA)	2/23	52	15.6a	21.7	13.4*	
49 Mountain	2/27	13	3.8	6.7	3.9*	
Hays Canyon	2/27	14	4.2	4.7	3.4*	
Little Bally Mountain	2/23	12	3.6a	3.5	2.1*	
Oregon Canyon (OR)	2/23	26	7.5a	4.2	5.2*	
Quinn Ridge	2/23	2	0.6a	0.0	2.3*	
Reservation Creek (CA)	2/27	32	9.5	17.5	9.2*	
Trout Creek (OR)	2/23	34	10.2a	5.6	6.3*	
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>						
Bear Creek	3/2	52	16.8	25.0	15.3*	
Fox Creek	3/2	31	8.8	12.7	7.9*	
Goat Creek	3/2	48	15.2	21.8	14.9*	
Hummingbird Springs	3/2	56	18.0	30.2	17.5*	
Merritt Mountain	No survey			14.9a	-	
Pole Creek Ranger Station	3/2	52	16.6	25.8	15.3*	
Red Point	3/2	29	7.3	13.3	9.5*	
76 Creek	3/2	34	10.4	15.5a	9.1*	
Stag Mountain	2/27	24	6.8a	10.5a	-	
<u>OWYHEE RIVER</u>						
Big Bend	2/27	27	6.6	13.4	6.9	
Columbia Basin	2/27	28	7.6a	13.9a	-	
Fawn Creek	2/27	19	4.9	9.6a	-	
Gold Creek	2/27	17	4.1	9.7	4.7	
Jack Creek, Upper	2/27	18	4.7a	11.1a	8.0	
Laurel Draw	2/28	26	7.4	12.5	6.2*	
Louse Canyon (OR)	2/23	8	2.2a	1.1	3.1*	
Taylor Canyon	2/23	21	6.0	5.2	4.2	

† 1953-1967 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME					Last Year	Average †
<u>UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
American Beauty	2/27	36	10.8a	12.9	-	
Corral Canyon	2/27	43	13.3a	17.3	13.8	
Dorsey Basin	2/23	40	12.4	14.1	9.5	
Dry Creek	2/20	21	5.5	3.3	3.8	
Fry Canyon	2/26	25	7.2	10.3	6.0	
Green Mountain	2/21	45	13.7	11.2	10.6*	
Harrison Pass #1	2/21	24	6.5	4.6	3.8	
Harrison Pass #2	2/21	28	7.0	6.7	5.1	
Lamoille #1	2/28	34	9.3	9.0	8.3	
Lamoille #2	2/28	34	8.8	7.4	7.7	
Lamoille #3	2/28	37	10.5	10.9	10.0	
Lamoille #4	2/28	55	16.9	17.7	15.0	
Lamoille #5	2/28	66	21.3	24.6	21.8	
Pole Canyon	2/27	39	11.3a	11.9a	-	
Robinson Lake	2/27	104	34.3a	44.8a	-	
Rodeo Flat	2/26	21	6.7	9.0	5.5	
Ryan Ranch	2/20	14	3.4	0.0	1.6	
Tent Mountain, Upper	2/27	60	19.2a	-	-	
Tremewan Ranch	2/26	8	3.0	0.4	1.1	
Trout Creek, Lower	2/20	19	4.6	3.5	2.7*	
Trout Creek, Upper	2/27	68	21.8	35.5a	14.0*	
<u>LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
Big Creek Camp Ground	3/1	15	4.7	0.6	1.6*	
Big Creek Mine	3/1	21	6.6	5.3	3.5*	
Big Creek, Upper	3/1	33	10.1	7.0	4.9*	
Buckskin, Lower	2/28	28	7.6	11.4	6.7	
Buckskin, Upper	2/28	30	9.2	14.7	7.2*	
Corral, Lower	Delayed			-	1.2	
Corral, Upper	Delayed			-	4.1*	
Golconda #2	2/23	18	6.2	7.6	3.6*	
Granite Peak	3/1	46	15.9	15.8	10.7	
Lamance Creek	3/1	30	9.2	17.8	7.5	
Martin Creek	2/28	32	9.3	10.9	7.8	
Midas	2/27	7	1.8a	6.3	2.5*	
Toe Jam	2/27	36	10.8a	7.8a	-	



# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

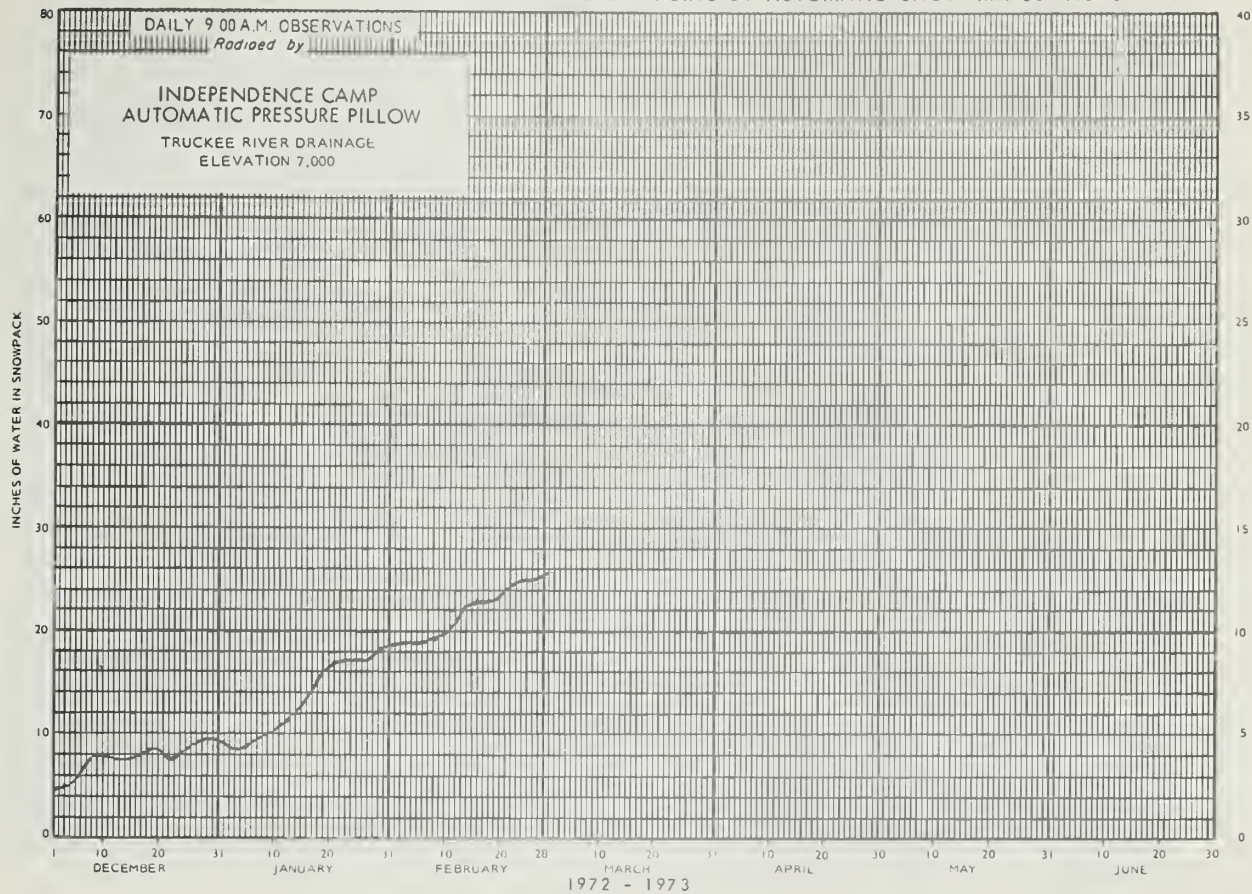
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME					Last Year	Average †
<u>EASTERN NEVADA</u>						
Baker #1	2/26	28	7.3	6.0	5.1	
Baker #2	2/26	45	12.4	13.4	11.9	
Baker #3	3/1	48	13.4a	13.2a	13.6	
Berry Creek	2/28	52	14.4	14.8	11.1	
Bird Creek	2/28	20	4.1	3.9	3.5	
Kalamazoo Creek	2/27	30	7.8	7.0	6.0*	
Mount Defiance	3/1	60	16.8a	18.4a	-	
Murray Summit	3/1	22	5.7	3.1	2.5	
Robinson Summit	2/27	15	2.8	1.8	2.1	
Silver Creek #2	3/1	31	8.4a	4.8a	4.8*	
Ward Mountain #2	3/1	33	8.9a	5.0a	8.2*	
White River #1	3/2	20	5.5	2.8	2.3*	
Hole-in-Mountain	2/22	54	16.9	38.8	17.5*	
<u>CENTRAL GREAT BASIN</u>						
Campito Mountain (CA)	2/26	27	7.2	0.0	5.4*	
Chiatovich Flat	2/25	0	0.0a	3.0a	-	
Clark Canyon	2/27	46	13.8	7.3	5.8	
Montgomery Pass	2/26	11	2.9	0.0	1.0*	
Pinchot Creek	2/25	0	0.0a	0.0a	5.1*	
Piute Pass (CA)	2/25	12	3.1a	0.0a	6.2*	
Trough Springs	2/27	44	13.6	4.9	4.6	
<u>LOWER COLORADO RIVER</u>						
Kyle Canyon	2/28	54	16.3	9.2	7.1	
Lee Canyon #2	3/1	51	14.7	7.8	7.2	
Lee Canyon #3	3/1	41	11.9	7.5	5.3*	
Mathew Canyon	2/27	16	6.7	0.0	1.2	
Rainbow Canyon #2	2/28	76	21.0	13.8	10.9	
Pine Canyon	est.	20	7.0	0.0	1.4	

## NOTE:

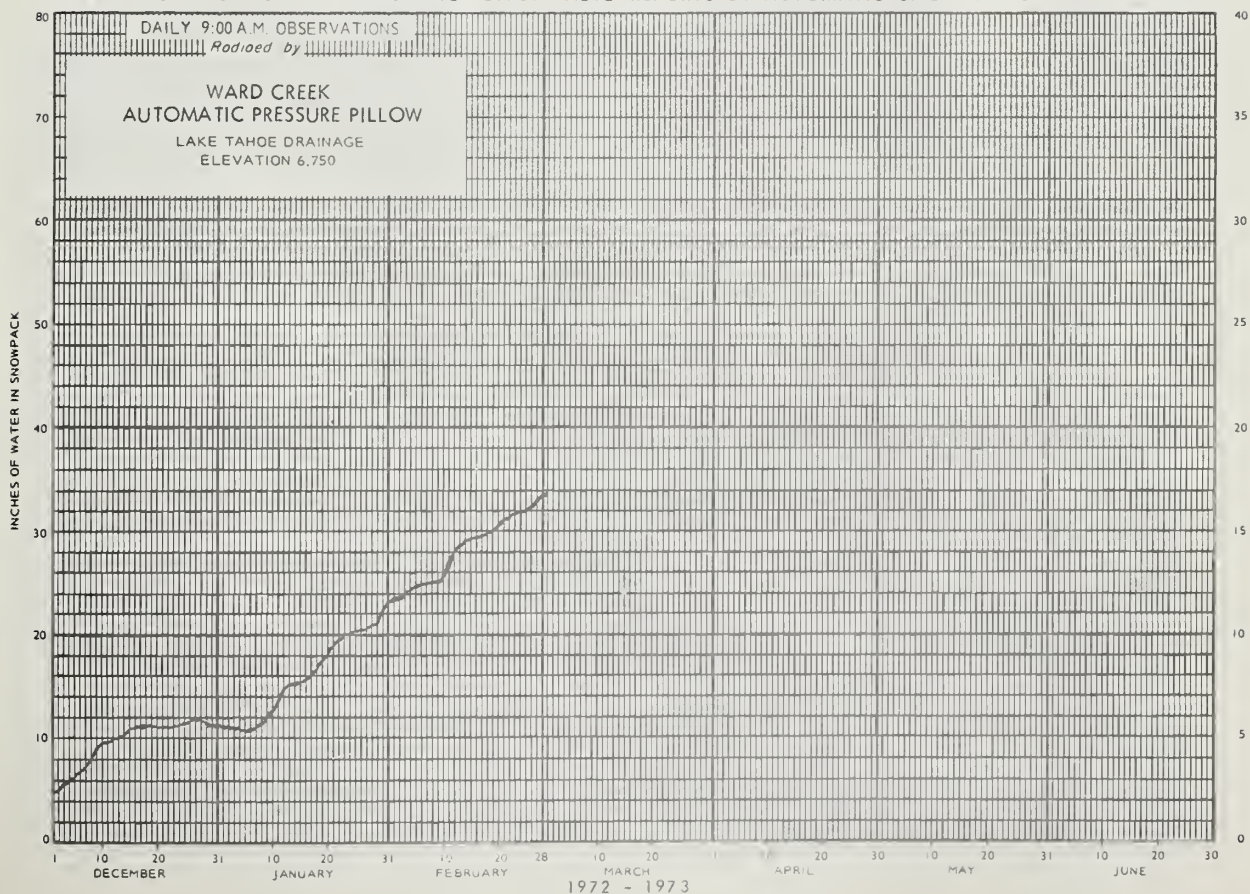
All averages based on 1953-67, 15 year period. Forecast period is April 1 through July 31 unless otherwise noted. a-Aerial marker; water content estimated. \* 1953-67 adjusted average.



U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION

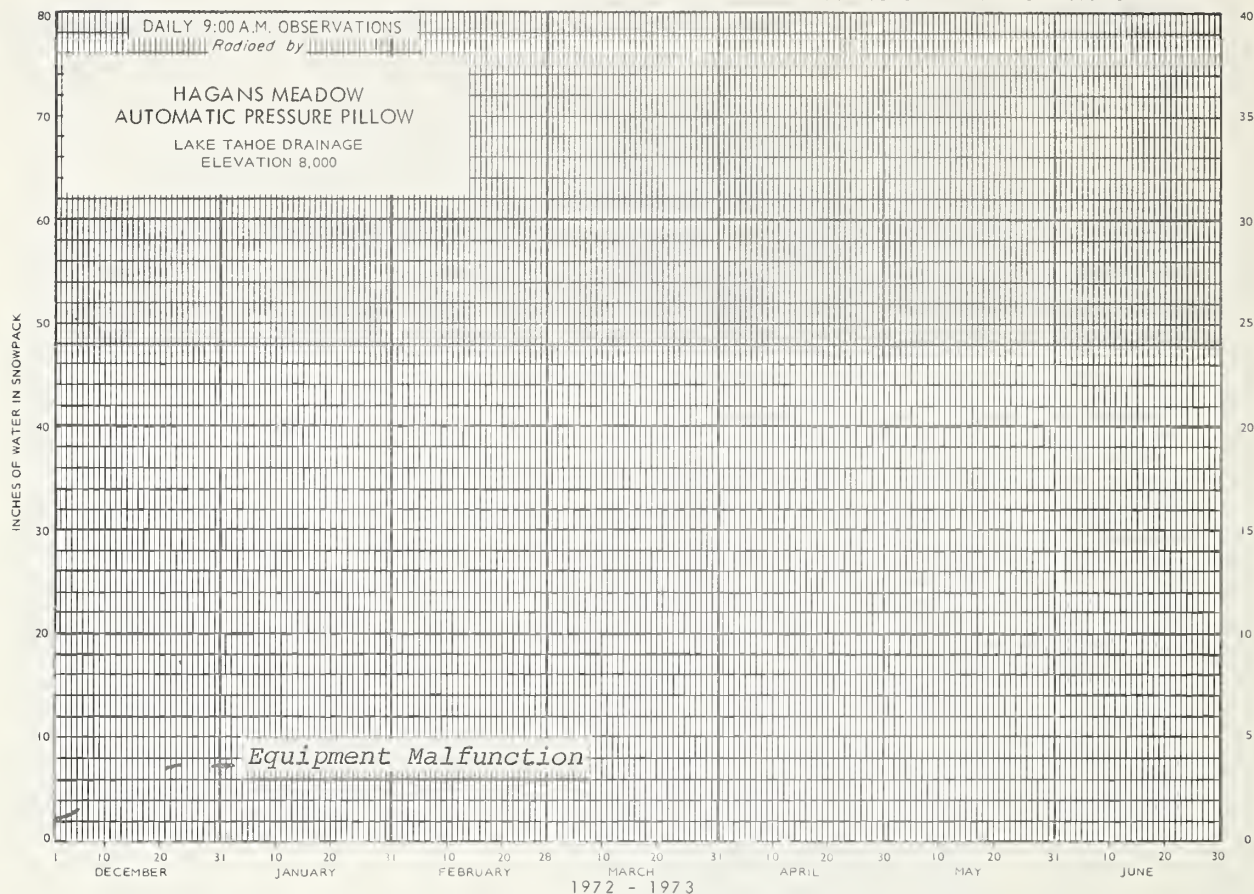


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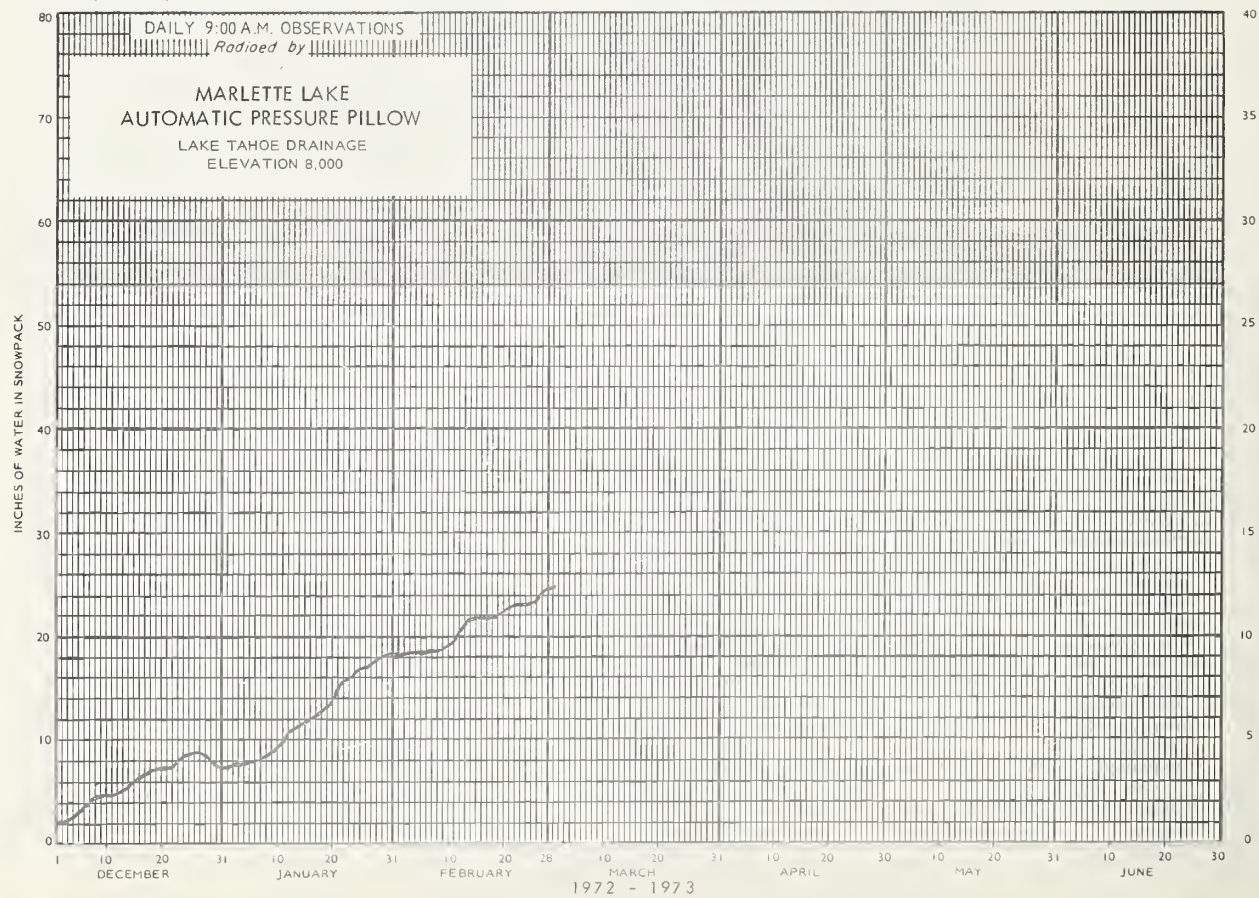




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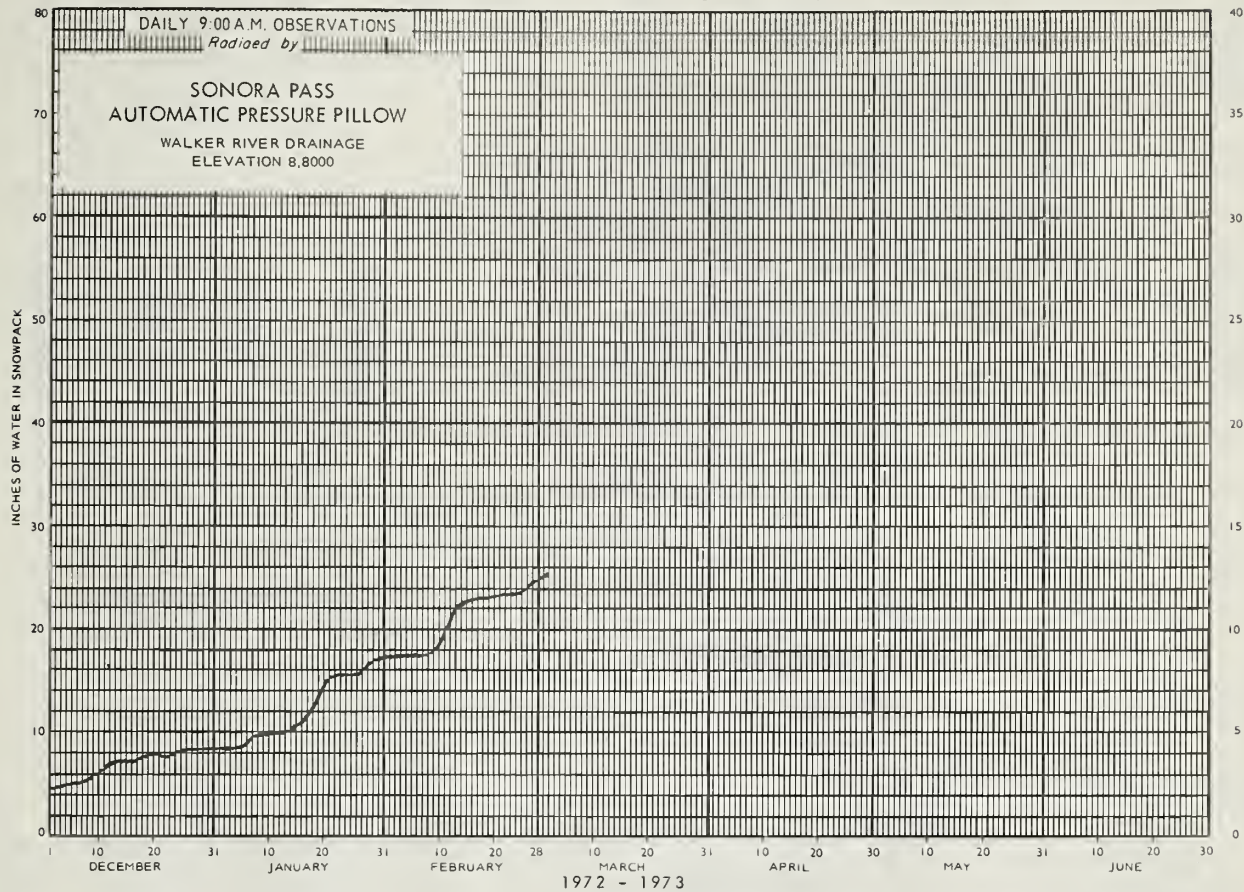


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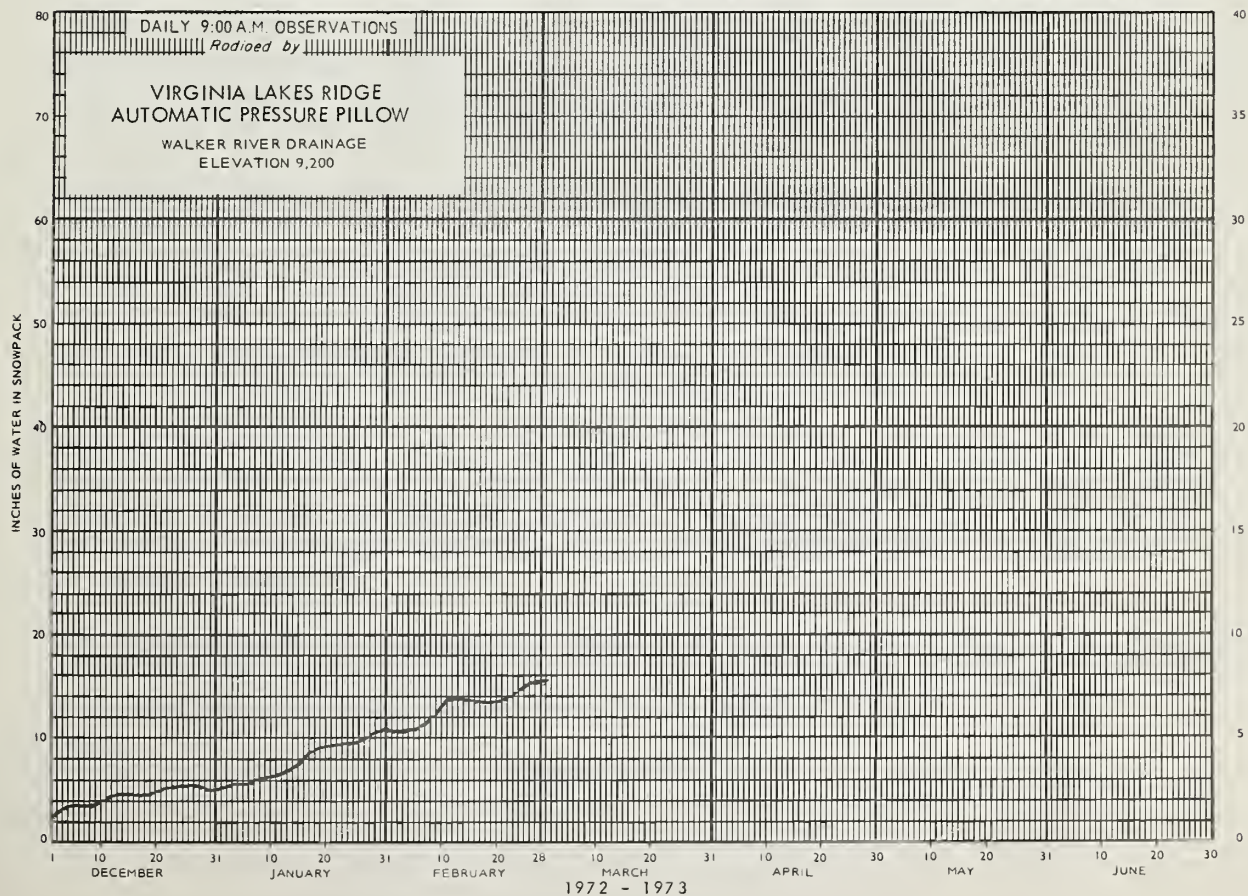




U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION



U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION

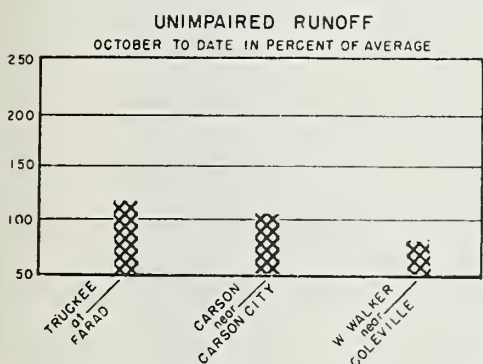
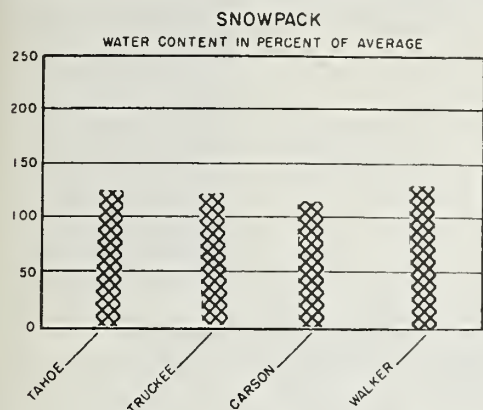






# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

## FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN THE TRUCKEE, CARSON and WALKER WATERSHEDS



The March 1, 1973, snowpack is above average on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada range. This season's snowpack in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River drainage is 122 percent of average. The Carson and Walker River drainages are similar, at 121 and 128 percent of average, respectively.

Reservoir storage remains excellent in the Truckee and Carson River drainage systems. Lake Tahoe currently has 544,000 acre-feet in storage, which is 132 percent of average. Lahontan is similar, with 128 percent of the normal stored water. Stampede Reservoir currently is impounding 127,000 acre-feet. Principal reservoirs in the Walker River drainage are currently impounding 82 percent of normal carryover storage. This is 12,000 acre-feet below the average impounded water for this date.

Streamflow forecasts reflect the above average snow conditions, with Lake Tahoe expected to rise 2.0 feet from March 1 to the maximum. The Truckee River is expected to flow 112 percent of normal this summer. The Carson and Walker Rivers are similarly expected to produce 105 to 116 percent of normal flows.

The above normal streamflow and reservoir storage conditions indicate water users located in the Truckee, Carson and Walker River drainages will have adequate supplies this coming irrigation season.

Area 1

Prepared by:  
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IN COOPERATION WITH  
NEVADA DEPT. OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.)

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST	% of Average	Average <sup>+</sup>
Little Truckee above Boca, CA	91	112	81
Truckee at Farad, CA	289	112	258
Lake Tahoe Rise (assuming gates closed)	1.72	124	1.39
East Carson near Gardnerville, NV	197	112	175
West Carson at Woodfords, CA	59	116	51
Carson River near Carson City, NV	185	111	166
Carson River near Fort Churchill, NV	164	109	150
East Walker near Bridgeport, CA	64	107	60
West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	150	105	143

# SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

WATERSHED	This Years Snow as % of Average <sup>+</sup>
Tahoe	121
Truckee	123
Carson	121
Walker	128

# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

RESERVOIR	Capacity	This Year	Average <sup>+</sup>
Tahoe	732	544	412
Boca	41	29	6
Prosser	30	9	8
Lahontan	314	245	191
Topaz	59	33	39
Bridgeport	42	25	31

# SUMMARY of SOIL MOISTURE

RIVER BASIN	This Years Moisture as % of Average <sup>+</sup>
Truckee	62
Carson	81
Walker	95

# FORECAST DATE of LOW FLOW VALUES

FORECAST POINT	Low Flow Value Second/Ft.	Forecast Date Stream Will Recede to Low Flow Value	Average Date of Low Flow Value
East Carson near Gardnerville	200	7/22	7/23

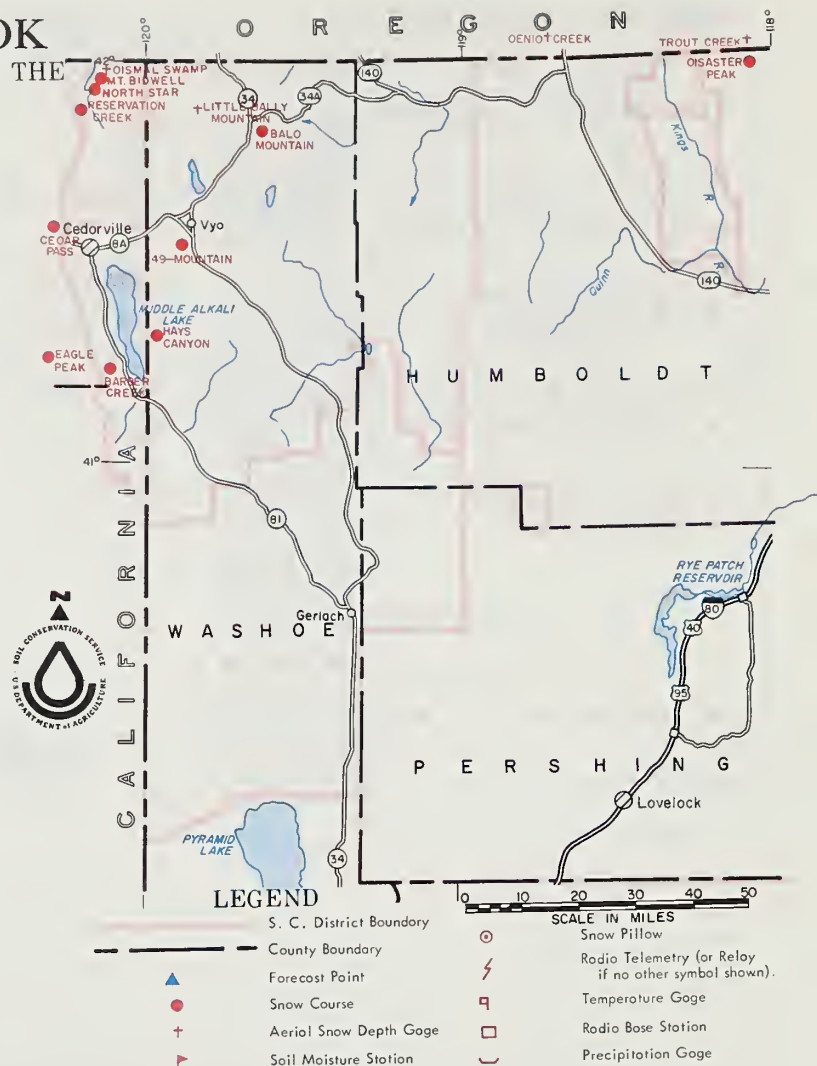
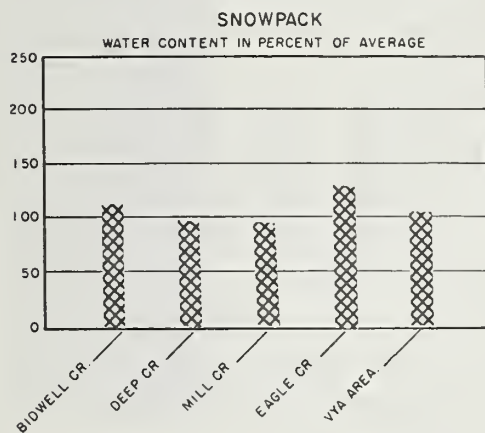
# PEAK FLOWS (MAXIMUM MEAN DAILY) (Av. flow for 24 hrs. on day of greatest flow)

FORECAST POINT	PEAK FLOW (SECOND FEET)	
	Forecast Range	Average <sup>+</sup>
Little Truckee River - Inflow to Stampede	920-1120	902
East Fork Carson near Gardnerville	1860-2060	1,724
Carson River near Carson City	2015-2235	1,825
Carson River at Fort Churchill	1700-1900	1,678
West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	1575-1750	1,548

<sup>+</sup> 1953-1967 period.

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

## FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN THE SURPRISE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, and NORTHWEST NEVADA



The March 1, 1973, snowpack is very near average throughout the Warner Mountain range. The snow cover in western and northern Vya County is similarly slightly above average. Snowpack conditions on the east slope of the Warner Mountains ranges from 95 percent of normal on the headwaters of Mill Creek to 126 percent of average on the Eagle Creek drainage.

Streamflow is expected to be very near average in Surprise Valley this summer, with Bidwell Creek forecast to flow 11,500 acre-feet which is average, for example.

# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.)

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST	% of Average	Average +
Bidwell Creek near Fort Bidwell, CA	11.5	100	11.5
Deep Creek above all diversions	4.0	121	3.3
Eagle Creek at Eagleville, CA	5.0	116	4.3
Mill Creek above all diversions	5.2	110	4.7

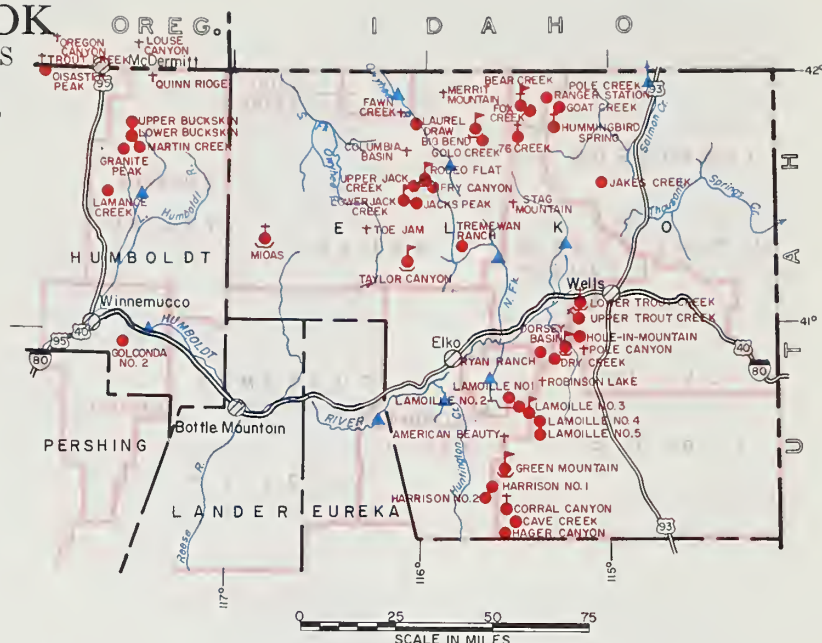
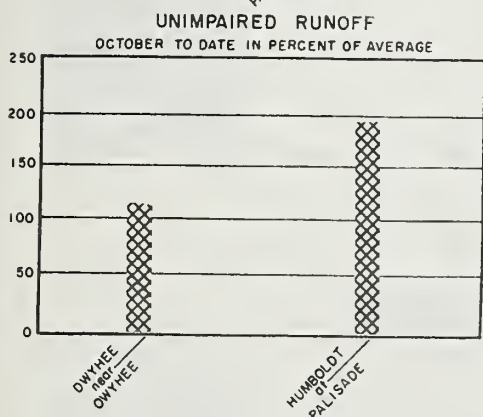
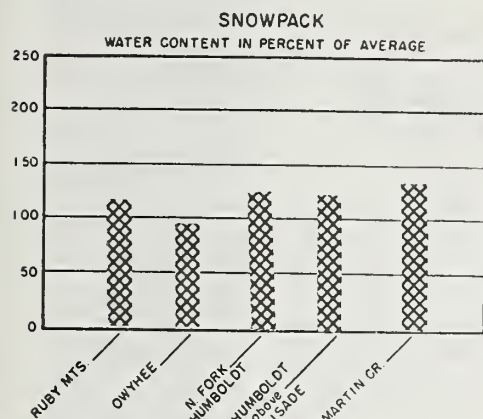
# SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

WATERSHED	This Years Snow as % of Average +
Bidwell Creek	111
Deep Creek	99
Eagle Creek	125
Mill Creek	95



# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
IN THE  
HUMBOLDT and OWYHEE WATERSHEDS



## LEGEND

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| — S. C. District Boundary | ○ Snow Pillow  |
| --- County Boundary       | ⚡ Radio Telemetry (or Relay if no other symbol shown). |
| ▲ Forecast Point          | ⊕ Temperature Gage                                     |
| ● Snow Course             | □ Radio Base Station                                   |
| + Aerial Snow Depth Gage  | ⌋ Precipitation Gage                                   |
| ▲ Soil Moisture Station   |  |

The March 1, 1973, snowpack is near to above average throughout the Humboldt and Upper Owyhee River Basins. Current snowpack conditions range from 114 percent on the South Fork to 128 percent in the Santa Rosa Mountains north of Winnemucca. Snowfall in northern Elko County was deficient during February. Headwater areas of the Owyhee River and Salmon Falls Creek currently have a 96 and 104 percent of average snowpack, respectively.

Reservoir storage conditions are excellent with Rye Patch Reservoir containing 158,000 acre-feet. This is 213 percent of average and 88 percent of capacity. Wild Horse Reservoir is similar, with 59,000 acre-feet of storage which is 81 percent of capacity.

Streamflow forecasts range from normal on the Owyhee and Salmon Falls Creek to 141 percent on the Humboldt at Comus. The Humboldt River at Palisade is forecast to flow 197,000 acre-feet which is 128 percent of average.

# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.)

FORECAST POINT,	FORE-CAST	% of Average	Average <sup>†</sup>
Lamoille Creek near Lamoille, NV	27	108	25
South Fork Humboldt near Elko, NV	70	120	58
Marys River above Hot Springs, NV	30	107	28
North Fork Humboldt at Devils Gate, NV	29	112	26
Humboldt River at Palisade, NV	197	128	154
Humboldt River at Comus, NV	155	141	110
Martin Creek near Paradise, NV	16	114	14
Owyhee River near Owyhee, NV	60	100	60
Owyhee River near Gold Creek, NV	19	119	16
Salmon Falls Creek near San Jacinto, NV	67	100	67

# SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

WATERSHED	This Years Snow as % of Average <sup>†</sup>
Lamoille	106
South Fork Humboldt	114
North Fork Humboldt	121
Owyhee	96
Lower Humboldt	128
Martin Creek	136
Kings and Quinn Rivers	110

# SUMMARY of SOIL MOISTURE

RIVER BASIN	This Years Moisture as % of Average <sup>†</sup>
Humboldt, North Fork	81
Humboldt, South Fork	110

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" With Respect to Usual Supply.

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Franklin River	Average	Average
Kings River	Excellent	Average
Little Humboldt River	Excellent	Average
Quinn River	Excellent	Average

# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

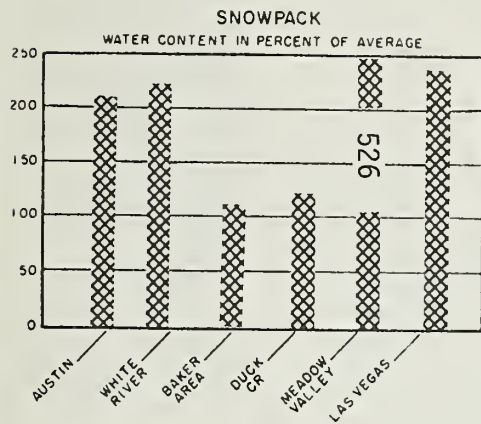
RESERVOIR	Capacity	This Year	Average <sup>†</sup>
Rye Patch	179	158	74
Wild Horse	72	59	15

<sup>†</sup> 1953-1967 period.



# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IN  
EAST CENTRAL and SOUTHERN NEVADA



As of March 1, 1973, the mountain snowpack is much above average in southern Nevada. Central and eastern areas of Nevada also have a good snow cover this year. The White Mountains area above Fish Lake Valley is the only area with below normal snowpack conditions.

This year's snowpack on Mt. Charleston is 240 percent of average, while the snowpack in the Meadow Valley Wash area is in excess of 500 percent of average. The Ely area has a current snowpack ranging from 114 to 126 percent of average.

Water supplies derived from direct streamflow in White Pine and Lander Counties will be excellent this spring and drop to above average during the summer irrigation season.

Irrigation supplies in the Virgin Valley area will be very good this year, with the Virgin River predicted to flow in excess of 180 percent of average.

# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.)

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST	% of Average	Average <sup>+</sup>
Virgin River at Virgin UT	70	184	38

# SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

WATERSHED	This Years Snow as % of Average <sup>+</sup>
Duck Creek	126
Fish Lake Valley	74
Meadow Valley Wash	526
Mt. Charleston Area	240
Reese River	214

# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

RESERVOIR	Capacity	This Year	Average <sup>+</sup>
Mohave	1,810	1,748	1,697
Mead	27,217	19,453	16,416

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" With Respect to Usual Supply.

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Baker Creek	Excellent	Average
Duck Creek	Excellent	Average
Silver Creek	Excellent	Excellent
Meadow Valley Wash	Excellent	Excellent
White River	Excellent	Average
Reese River	Excellent	Excellent



## Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

### FEDERAL

- Agricultural Research Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Geological Survey
- Navy
- Soil Conservation Service
- U. S. District Court - Federal Water Master
- NOAA, National Weather Service

### STATE

- California Cooperative Snow Surveys
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Water Resources
- Colorado River Commission of Nevada
- Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
- Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
  - Division of Water Resources
  - Nevada State Forester
- Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
- White Mountain Research Station, Univ. of California

### PRIVATE

- Amalgamated Sugar Company
- Kennecott Copper Corporation
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Owyhee Project North Board of Control
- Owyhee Project South Board of Control
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Pershing County Water Conservation District
- Sierra Pacific Power Company
- Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
- Walker River Irrigation District
- Washoe County Water Conservancy District

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their Cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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with the Snow Survey"*